



August 12, 2022

Chicago Recovery Plan Director
City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1000, Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Sophia Carey, Nina Idemudia, and Chicago Recovery Plan Team,

I am Joanne Cascone, Interim Managing Director of the League of Chicago Theatres. The League of Chicago Theatres is an alliance of theatres which leverages its collective strength to support, promote, and advocate for Chicago's theatre industry. We believe that theatre is essential to the life of a great city and to its citizens. Through our work, we ensure that theatre continues to thrive in Chicago.

I am pleased to share my full support for Uprising Theater's plan to make the property located at 2905 North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood their permanent home. Uprising Theater's work will have a significant impact on individuals and the city at large, accelerating the economy, the arts, and education. Currently, the proposed site is vacant, and Uprising Theater's plan is to build a fully-functioning performing arts and cultural center that will stimulate economic growth, provide jobs, and a greater number of cultural opportunities to the community, especially in light of the pandemic.

Uprising Theater serves a significant need in our city, amplifying the stories of Palestinians and other historically marginalized groups. As the only theatre in Chicago dedicated to sharing the Palestinian narrative, Uprising fills a critical need by highlighting diverse perspectives and experiences to create greater equity and inclusivity through the performing arts. With a mission that focuses on social justice and creating transformative art, I believe Uprising will become a cultural destination in the community of Avondale.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with me directly, please feel free to contact me at joanne@chicagoplays.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Cascone".

Joanne Cascone, Interim Managing Director
League of Chicago Theatres

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